

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1906.

WHEN IN DOUBT BUY OF
House & Herrmann
COR. 7th & EYE (1) STREETS, N.W.

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House & Herrmann
COR. 7th & EYE (1) STREETS, N.W.

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Mantel Clocks
Pictures
Mirrors
Parlor Suites
Parlor Cabinets
Reception Chairs
Tabourettes
Pedestals
Fancy Tables
Brass Beds
Enameled Beds
Wardrobes
Toilet Tables
Cheval Mirrors
Chiffoniers
Princess Dressers
Slipper Chairs
Buffets
Sideboards
China Closets

Hall Seats
Hall Chairs
Hall Mirrors
Costumers
Morris Chairs
Leather Chairs
Turkish Chairs
Rockers
Davenport
Couches
Cellarettes
Shaving Stands
Bachelors' Cabinets
Smokers' Stands
Pipe Racks
Writing Desks
Desk Chairs
Bookcases
Combination Cases
Magazine Racks
Library Tables
Couch Covers
Portieres
Lace Curtains
Parlor Rugs

BRICKBATS FOR BEDS

Baltimore Fire Debris Used
in Oyster Farming.

BIVALVES BREED ON RUBBISH

Interesting Discovery Made by the
Maryland Oyster Survey—Oyster
Attaches Himself to Any Hard Sub-
stance that Comes to Hand—Large
Beds of Bivalves Never Touched.

In August, 1904, Washington Christo-
pher, of Anne Arundel County, got two
schooner loads of brick from the debris of
the great fire and dumped them near the
mouth of Fork Creek, in the Magothy
River. There were about 180 tons in each
load. One was dumped on the north side
of the creek and one on the south side.
Recently Dr. Grave had tongued up some
of the brick on the south side and found
them well covered with young oysters.
Mr. Christopher himself reports that he
found a good set of young oysters on the
artificial bed thus created a few months
after the load had been dumped there.

On Wednesday, in the presence of a
representative of the Baltimore News, the
bed on the north side was examined by
Dr. Grave. A score or more of bricks
were taken up with oyster tongs and in-
spected. A number of young oysters were
found, a few specimens being nearly three
inches long. But the set was not abun-
dant, and Dr. Grave said that the show-
ing was poor in comparison with that
made by the other bed. Dr. Grave also
said that better results would be obtained
by breaking up the brick into sizes about
as large as stone used for macadamizing
roads. In this case the brick was dumped
just as it had been left by the fire, and
was composed mostly of half bricks, still
showing the fire stains.

The oyster survey is now proceeding in
the Magothy River, and is working north
to Rock Point, which will probably be
the northern limit of natural beds on the
west side of the bay. Rock Point is about
four miles below Fort Carroll, and is near
the Craighill channel. If any natural
beds exist further north, they will, of
course, be surveyed, but in this respect
the commission will be guided by the ad-
vice of the local commissioner, Mr. West.

who is a practical oysterman, well ac-
quainted with all the natural beds in
Anne Arundel waters.

Northern Limits of Natural Beds.

There is a marked difference between
the eastern and western range of natural
beds. On the eastern shore natural beds
are found up to Worton Point, ten miles
farther north than Rock Point, on the
west side, and formerly there were natu-
ral beds in the Sassafras River, seven
and one-half miles north of Worton Point.
The fresh water poured into the bay by
rivers checks the formation of natural
beds where the effect is strongly felt, and
it appears that this effect is sooner ex-
perienced on the western side of the bay
than on the eastern. It is possible that
seed oysters can be raised north of the
limits in which natural beds can form,
thus developing sources of supply for
oyster farms in suitable localities. The
board of shell fish commissioners will in-
vestigate this feature of the case later on.

Dr. Grave thinks that the Magothy River
will afford fine sites for oyster farms,
as the water is of good density for the
purpose. In general the capabilities of
Anne Arundel County are much larger
than had been supposed. In the rivers
the principal areas suitable for oyster
planting are in the tributary creeks. Natu-
ral beds are numerous in the rivers, and
grassy bottoms, such as the law reserves
for crabbing, are found on the inside of
the beds toward the shore, but there are
still large areas of barren bottoms both
in the rivers and in the bay that can be
utilized. In the upper part of the bay
shore off Bodkin Point, near the Craighill
channel, is an area of about 1,000 acres,
now barren bottom, that seems to be
available for planting purposes.

Natural Oyster Nurseries.

An interesting fact discovered by the
commission is that outside of the known
limits of some tonguing grounds are large
natural beds that are practically un-
touched and in which oysters are dense-
ly packed. The reason why they have
escaped oystering operations is that they
extend into deep water—about thirty-five
feet. This puts them beyond the reach of
ordinary tongs, and they are in localities
from which dredgers are debarred. The
circumstance explains how natural beds
that have been long worked have been
protected from absolute exhaustion and
also why they recuperate so rapidly when
they are given a rest. These undisturbed
deep-water beds are evidently sources of
oyster spat supply from which the set of
young oysters are obtained that replen-
ish beds depleted by oystering operations.
Hence it is regarded as sound policy by
the commission to include such beds in
the area reserved by the State as natu-
ral beds, although they have not been oys-
tering grounds. They are, in fact, natural
nurseries, that will send out supplies of
spat to produce young oysters both on
the natural beds and on artificial beds
made by planters. It is thought that we
have here the explanation of the way in
which the natural beds have held out in
Maryland under many years of hard
usage.

Herald Want Ads

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warded to the main office.

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